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A Maybe we shall have lunch now. Because I think maybe we will finish today at 3:00, yes.

F Right, if you have other plans.

F I have a special question: Do you think it possible that a German soldier, just normal rank, being a prisoner-of-war can live under cover even being a prisoner-of-war and this for some years ?

A In the Soviet Union ?

F In the Soviet Union.

A I doubt it.

F So do I. We have a fellow and this fellow was, and I think it's of some importance too, not normal army, he was SS and SD officer. When he was taken prisoner-of-war he covered up - shortly before, immediately before he was taken prisoner - he covered up.

A During the camp or -

F No. During the breakdown in Northern Russia in the Baltic, Kurland. This fellow, he came from the Netherlands. In the Netherlands he had been with the Gestapo and other outfits of RSHA. In May 1945, shortly before the breakdown he got transferred to the Eastern Front and being afraid of what will happen to him he tried to cover up - that's what he told

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us at least - he tried to cover up and tried to be a normal soldier like every other one.

M Instead of being a Lt. Colonel he pretended to be a simple soldier.

F Just simple file and he must have had some means of getting good papers, being strongly connected with the Headquarters of RSHA, he certainly had the possibility of getting himself the right papers. Now he claims to have lived in Russia being a prisoner-of-war from May '45 till December '49. That's four and a half years and he claims to have lived under a cover name - he claims to have been 11 months in a special camp near Vyazma. '46 he will have been in a so-called rehabilitation camp, recreation or some sort of a rest camp to restore his health - he broke down physically - he came into a special camp near Riga and from there to Moscow and he claims -

A When he came to Moscow ?

F No special date - I'm afraid I haven't; he didn't tell us particular.

A Because it's important. I mean evidently it's very easy to find out.

F Oh yes, here we do have the history on his prisoner-of-warship. Taken prisoner of war, May '45 and now the camps he went to. That's what he told us. Just for the monitor, the name of the fellow we are speaking of is ^{check} DEPPNER. Now my question is do you think it possible that a fellow with a history like this one -

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R One of HARSTER's old people ?

F Yes, one of HARSTER's old people - with a record like this one, he is more or less certainly a war criminal from the Netherlands.

M He is responsible for having shot a group of Russian prisoners of war under the reason of reprisals. And that he did in the Netherlands.

F I should think that this fellow here was now well-known in his party circle.

A In which ?

F His old comrades, in Fascist circles. There must have been hundreds of old friends and war prisoners and other people who knew personally and knew his record and knew his true name and knew everything about him.

M And reported him to State Security during the time while he stayed in Russia. He couldn't possibly escape to be identified, at least on the paper, in the files. The State Security very carefully reconstructed the hierarchy of the SD and was interested very much and for good reason in this group of birds.

F I think the KGB and especially the State Security in your country must have checked the files of the different prisoners of war very carefully and they had some time for doing so. In this case here they had four and a half years.

A Of course in principle it's possible to cover up.

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F In principle, if you had good papers ?

A But it's possible for not very long period and if it's of course not known person in view of his background, age, his activity. In that case I doubt in view of his age that it could be possible. And in view of his papers and especially in view that he was known as SD officer.

M His deed in the Netherlands. There were repatriation committees in the Netherlands on behalf of the Russians.

A Yes. Usually you see they check such people through many opportunities. Sometimes if it's important they check it through - they usually had such agents among ex-Gestapo officers who visited all camps and spotted ex-Gestapo officers in that way.

M And spotted especially ex-Gestapo officers who had shot the Russian soldiers. He must have been.

A It does not mean that they were looking for active Nazis, SD intelligence.

M War criminals ?

A And in that way it's very difficult, it's impossible practically. It's impossible in that way to be not escape. (uncovered)

F You see the reason why I am asking this is simple enough. It's the story he told us. If this story is not true then necessarily there is something behind which we would like to know very much indeed.

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A For them it was necessary evidently of course to hide. If we assume that he was known then it is difficult to explain why they allowed to him of course to return. Then it can be made by the KGB later and when he returned -he could be KGB agent.

END OF TAPE